

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9028
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0226

E.O. 16652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS PDIP LA
SUBJECT: LPDR VISA POLICY AND VISA ISSUANCE IN LPDR PASSPORTS

REF: SCSTATE 034738

1. THE NEW LPDR VISA POLICY'S FIRST WEEK OF OPERATION INDICATES THAT HEADS OF MISSIONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WILL BE ISSUED MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR ONE YEAR AND RESIDENCE VISAS GOOD FOR THE DURATION OF THEIR TOURS IN THE LPDR. THE CHARGE RECEIVED VISAS OF THIS DESCRIPTION FEBRUARY 17. AN EMBASSY OFFICER LISTED ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST WAS ISSUED A ONE ENTRY/EXIT VISA VALID FOR TWO MONTHS AND A RESIDENCE VISA GOOD FOR ONE YEAR. SOME OF THE EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ISSUED ONE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR ONE MONTH AND RESIDENCE VISAS GOOD FOR SIX MONTHS. SO FAR WE HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING ANOTHER ENTRY/EXIT VISA SOON AFTER RETURNING FROM A TRIP. WE PLAN TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL PERSONNEL ALWAYS HAVE A VALID TRAVEL VISA IN THEIR PASSPORTS.

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2. WE DO NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY POINT IN MAKING DEMARCHE TO THE LAO EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AS LONG AS THE MFA PERMITS OUR PERSONNEL ALWAYS TO HAVE VALID VISAS. IF THEY SHOULD ALTER THIS PRACTICE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD RECONSIDER THIS RECOMMENDATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION POSED IN THE REFTTEL.

DURING 1977 THE EMBASSY ISSUED SEVENTEEN NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS IN LPDR PASSPORTS. TWO OF THE VISAS WERE A-1, FIVE WERE G-1, AND 10 WERE G-2. SIX OF THE SEVENTEEN VISAS WERE MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR ONE YEAR; ONE WAS A ONE ENTRY/EXIT VALID FOR 12 MONTHS; THREE WERE ONE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR THREE MONTHS; FIVE WERE ONE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR THREE WEEKS; AND TWO WERE ONE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR THREE DAYS. WHEN THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR A SECURITY ADVISORY OPINION, DID NOT INSTRUCT THE EMBASSY TO MAKE LIMITATIONS IN THE VISAS, THE EMBASSY ISSUED THE MAXIMUM TRIPS AND VALIDITY PERMITTED BY FAM 9 VISA HANDBOOK PART IV APPENDIX IN ALL BUT ONE CASE. (IN THE ONE EXCEPTION THE EMBASSY ISSUED A ONE ENTRY/EXIT VISA VALID FOR 12 MONTHS.) IN ALL OTHER CASES THE EMBASSY LIMITED THE VISAS AS INSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR A SECURITY ADVISORY OPINION.
ROBERTS

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